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Vax updates
Over 97% of India's adult population has so far been administered with the first dose of covid vaccine while around 82% have got the second dose

BangaloreMirror
Friday, March 4, 2022
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Quad for a free & open Indo-Pacific region

PM joins leaders of US, Oz, Japan in virtual meet amid Ukraine crisis

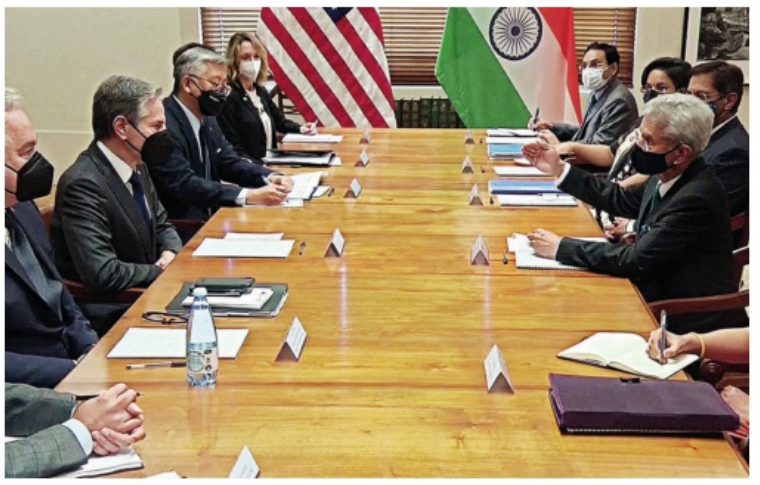
#NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined US President Joe Biden and prime ministers of Australia and Japan at a virtual meeting of Quad leaders amid the Russian aggression against Ukraine on Thursday.

The leaders of the Quad grouping of countries -- the United States, India, Australia and Japan -- agreed that what's happening to Ukraine should not be allowed to happen in the Indo-Pacific, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said.

"We've agreed that unilateral changes to the status quo with force like this should not be allowed in the Indo-Pacific region," Kishida said, referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "We've also agreed this development makes it even more important to work toward realising a free and open Indo-Pacific," Kishida told reporters after the meeting.

Earlier the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said the leaders will exchange views and assessments about important developments in the Indo-Pacific. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate along with President of USA Joseph R Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison, and Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida in a Quad Leaders' virtual meeting on March 3," it said in a statement.



File photo of S Jaishankar meeting Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting in February

The Quad leaders held an in-person summit in Washington in September last year.

"The leaders will have an opportunity to continue their dialogue after the September 2021 Summit in Washington DC. They will exchange views and assessments about important developments in the Indo-Pacific," the MEA said.

"The Quad leaders will also review ongoing efforts to implement the Leaders' initiatives announced as part of the Quad's contemporary and positive agenda," it said.

In March last year, Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad leaders in the virtual format that was followed by an in-person summit in Washington in September for which Prime Minister Modi had travelled to the US. **-Agencies**

Ahead of IPO, LIC gets Reliance-Nippon's Sunil Agarwal as CFO

Life Insurance Corp. Of India is understood to have hired former Reliance -Nippon Life Insurance executive Sunil Agarwal as the new chief financial officer of the company ahead of its planned public issue.

Agarwal, who resigned from Reliance as CFO and had spent nearly two decades as finance executive in life insurance firms, has joined LIC this month, sources said.

In September, the State -run insurer has called for applications for the post of CFO and was in search for an appropriate person.

Agarwal, a chartered accountant and a long-standing finance executive who worked with two major life insurance companies in the past, will take the charge in the newly created post at the insurer.

LIC did not have a chief financial officer and the position of Executive director F&A has been changed to CFO as the insurer is expected to launch India's largest ever public issue.

Shubhangi Sanjay Soman was the executive director in charge of finance and accounting (F&A) at LIC, prior to Agarwal's appointment.

Earlier last month, Life Insurace Corp filed the prospectus for its public offer

When contacted, LIC declined to comment. "Due to the Corporation in IPO mode and accordingly no details / comment could be shared at this moment," LIC said in an emailed response.

Agarwal was not immediately available for comments.

The CFO appointment is on contractual basis, sources said.

- Indulal PM & Saikat Das, ET

Telecom firm accused of tax evasion

The Income Tax Department said on Thursday it has detected suppression of income of Rs 400 crore during a raid conducted at various premises linked to a multinational telecom group. "The ultimate shareholding of the group lies with a foreign entity of a neighbouring country. The searches, which were spread across Delhi, Gurugram, and Bengaluru covered the main business premises and also the residential premises of the key office bearers," according to an official statement released by the Ministry of Finance.

Although the company's name is not mentioned in the statement released by the Union Finance Ministry, official sources said the company is Chinese telecom firm Huawei.

Official sources say the company in question is Huawei

The search and seizure operations by the Income Tax Department were conducted on February 15, 2022.

In a statement released on February 16 Huawei had confirmed about the raids. "We have been informed of the visit of the Income Tax team to our office and also of their meeting with some personnel," the company had said.

According to the Finance Ministry, the search action has revealed that the group has made inflated payments against receipt of technical services from its related parties outside India.

"The assessee company could not justify the genuineness of obtaining of such alleged services," it said. **ANI**

Russia will talk; won't stop targeting Ukraine military

Russia's foreign minister says that Moscow is ready for talks to end the fighting in Ukraine but will continue to press its effort to destroy Ukraine's military infrastructure.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that the Russian delegation submitted its demands to Ukrainian negotiators earlier this week and is now waiting for Kyiv's response in talks set for Thursday.

Lavrov said that the West has continuously armed Ukraine, trained its troops and built up bases there to turn Ukraine into a bulwark against Russia.

Russia says that made Ukraine a threat to its security, forcing it to act.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

WORLD

The US and its allies have insisted that NATO is a defensive alliance that doesn't pose a threat to Russia.

Lavrov strongly rejected that, saying that the West has turned Ukraine into a "bridgehead for undermining everything that is Russian." **-AP**

New rules on road accident reporting for claim settlement

#NEW DELHI

The road ministry on Thursday said it has issued a notification to mandate the procedure for detailed investigation of road accidents, detailed accident report (DAR) and its reporting along with timelines for different stakeholders for quick settlement of claims by the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal (MACT).

The ministry in a statement further said the incorporation of validated mobile numbers in the certificate of vehicle insurance has also been made mandatory. The new rules will come into force from April 1, 2022. According to the notification, immediately on receipt of the information of a road accident, the investigating officer of police shall inspect the site of accident, take photographs of the scene of the accident and the vehicle(s) involved in the accident and prepare a site plan.

In injury cases, the investigating officer (IO) shall also take the photographs of the injured in the hospital, the notification said, adding that the IO shall conduct spot enquiry by examining the eyewitnesses/ bystanders. As per the notification, the investigating officer shall intimate the accident to the claims tribunal within 48 hours of the accident, by submitting the first accident report (FAR) in Form I. If the particulars of the insurance policy are available, the intimation of the accident in Form I shall also be given to the Nodal Officer of the concerned insurance company of the offending vehicle, it said.

Procedure for detailed probe of accidents has been notified

It added that a copy of Form I shall also be provided to the victim(s), the state legal services authority, insurer and shall also be uploaded on the website of state police, if available.

The notification said the IO shall furnish the description of the rights of victim(s) of road accidents to the victim(s), or their legal representatives, within 10 days of the accident.

The IO shall also file a copy of Form II along with the DAR, it added.

The IO shall provide a blank copy of Form III to the driver of the vehicle(s) involved in the accident and the driver shall furnish the information in Form III to the officer, within 30 days of the accident. In case of any minor child/children of the victim(s) , the notification said the IO shall provide blank Form-VIA to the victim(s), to fill and submit within 60 days of the accident. **-PTI**

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PM2.5 hotspots in Bengaluru observed near industrial hubs in high-resolution spatial maps made using satellite data

A CHANGE IN THE AIR

Particulate pollutant can bypass body defences

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

What do the following zones — Bengaluru South, West, Dasarahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bommanahalli, Mahadevapura and Yelahanka — have in common?

The aforementioned localities are hotspots of PM2.5 in the city, a study has revealed. PM 2.5 refers to a category of particulate pollutant that is 2.5 microns or smaller in size.

These particles are considered especially dangerous to health because they bypass many of our body's defences, according to health experts.

The study — conducted by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) — used satellite tech in 2019 to understand the spatial patterns, hotspot areas and rural-urban contrasts of PM2.5 in Bengaluru.

According to the researchers, PM2.5 hotspots in Bengaluru coincide with some of the industrial hubs such as Peenya Industrial Area

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"Compared to Delhi-NCR and Kanpur, Bengaluru is observed to have much cleaner air — Dr Padmavati Kulkarni, CSTEP

What the citizen wants

Neighbourhood residents come forward to give suggestions ahead of BBMP budget

Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For over seven days now, citizens have come forward with over 1,600 responses for the upcoming Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) budget.

The BBMP and Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy jointly launched this year's MyCityMyBudget or Nanna Nagara Nanna Budget citizen participation programme on February 23.

This year the focus falls on three issues — parks, public toilets and footpaths. While one way of participating is through the online portal, the other is through the MyCityMyBudget vehicle, the 'Budget Bus', going around different localities to get the responses from citizens.

So far, over 20 wards have been covered with a participation of 600 citizens. Some of the wards include Dasarahalli, Herohalli, HSR Layout, Gottigere, Thanisandra, Kodigehalli, Jalahalli, Peenya, Kammanahalli, Kasturi Nagar, Shampura, Nagavara, Mallasandra and Domlur.

Many senior citizens actively participated in the campaign. "Having good footpaths is a basic necessity. We have broken footpaths across our ward; one can't even walk properly. There are instances where people have injured themselves. Having

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 The spirit of spring

SteppinOut celebrates the spirit of the season with Night Market - The Spring Edit in Namma Bengaluru, at the iconic Jayamahal Palace Hotel. A celebration of food, shopping, activities and live music, the Night Market is the perfect place for family fun & frolic along with your four-legged fur babies. With over 100 brand pop-ups, there is something for everyone to shop.
Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel
When: March 5
Tickets: dineout.co.in

02 Splurge till you drop

Evoluzione x Raintree Presents Spring '22, an evening bazaar at RainTree, Bangalore. The evening bazaar will be showcasing collections from designers 431-88, Scarlet Sage, AK-OK by Anamika Khanna, Not So Sure, Yam, Nupur Kanoi, Perona, Payal Singhal. For those looking to shop under one roof, this event is a convenient choice to spoil yourself silly.
Where: Lawns at RainTree, Sankey Road
When: March 4, 11.00 am to 7.00 pm

03 Stories of yore

This Sunday, Ranga Shankara presents 'Poems and Stories of the Wari' by Kavya Srinivasan and Chandrakant Redican. 'Poems and Stories of the Wari' is an hour-long conversation about the Warkari tradition in Maharashtra, infused with stories, songs and spoken word poetry. They will take you into the lives and stories of some of the saints from the Warkari tradition, and what they mean to us today!
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: March 6, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Entry: Free, 080 2649 3982

Examinees in a quandary

With JEE Main, II PUC, and CBSE Term-2 papers scheduled almost back to back; students and parents are worried over preparation time

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The upcoming boards and competitive examinations' timetable have put Class 12 students in a stew, thanks to the almost back-to-back dates that leave students with no time for a breather. While many are worried, others feel that any more changes will disrupt the academic year once more.

As per the timetable announced by the National Testing Agency, JEE Main, 2022, will be held from April 16 to April 21. The II Pre-University Course (PUC) examination is slotted from April 22 to May 11, while the CBSE Term-2 papers are slated to start from April 26. Combined, Class XII students -- from the state board or CBSE -- are left with very little margin between the two examinations.

Some students say that back-to-back examinations will not leave them much time for revision and switching from one paper to another within a short time frame might be tricky as they have different patterns.

"Although the board examination schedule is expected to be evenly spaced out, there are only five days' gap between the two examinations. I am appearing for JEE Main, and my entire focus will be on this examination for the next one month," said Aryan Gupta, a student.

Gupta added that while engineering is just about Physics, Chemistry, Math (PCM), the board examination also includes English and optional subjects. Spacing out the papers till the first week of May might have been better, according to him. Academicians are equally apprehensive, as this year, JEE Main has reduced the number of attempts at appearing for the exam.

"The fact that the number of attempts has been reduced might also be playing on students' minds," said Dr M Srinivasan, founder and director, Gear Innovative International School. He felt that with only a handful of days between two important examinations, there might be more pressure. "According to me, the authorities concerned should come together and look into it."

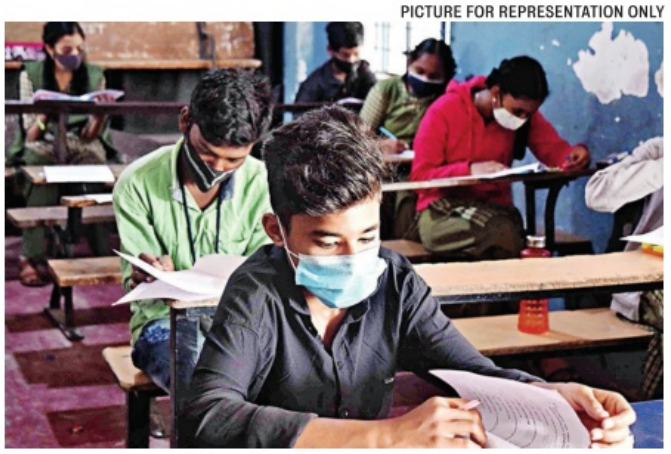
As per some experts, this is a sign of a clear lack of coordination between authorities.

"Some parents are in a dilemma. There should be better coordination between authorities when it comes to fixing the dates for final examinations," said Mansoor Ali Khan, board member, Delhi Public School, admitting that it was unlikely that CBSE would defer the dates.

The scenario is no less distressing for the II PUC students. While JEE Main 2022 ends on April 22, the II PUC examination begins on April 22. Others, however, say that any change in the examination schedule now will impact the academic calendar.

A representative of a city-based PU college said that students will have to adjust as educationists cannot keep postponing examinations and delaying this academic year too. "They have been preparing and they should go with the flow. The PUC examination, if not conducted now, will impact the next academic calendar. While the situation is difficult for the students who are aiming for JEE Main, we need to keep the interest of other students in mind too."

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



The exams have different patterns making it difficult to switch, say students

> **"There should be better coordination between authorities when it comes to fixing dates for final exams**
>
> –Mansoor Ali Khan, Delhi Public School

Airbender: Particulate matter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Dasarahalli, ITPL in International Tech Park Ltd, Graphite India in Mahadevapura and the Karnataka Housing Board industrial area in Yelahanka.

Other hotspots surrounding Peenya include Hegganahalli, Doddanna Industrial Estate, Herohalli, Doddabidarakallu, Nagarabhavi II Stage and Laggere wards. Bommanahalli also houses red and orange category industries.

Some of the PM2.5 hotspots in the city are located where stone-crushing industries are operational.

"The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board had recently recorded a Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index score of ~65.11 for the Peenya Industrial Cluster, declaring it a severely polluted area. We have large industries located in the western part of the city and a few in Greater Bengaluru. This might be the reason for higher PM2.5 concentration in these areas," said Dr Padmavati Kulkarni, research scientist specialising in climate, environment and sustainability at CSTEP.

In Bengaluru Rural, PM2.5 hotspots include Tubagere town and Doddaballapura taluk. However, no difference in particulate matter concentration was observed amongst urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, irrespective of seasons. As per researchers, this could be due to open biomass burning in rural areas.

"While higher PM2.5 concentration can be due to open burning in and around the town, a uniformity in the particulate matter level across urban, peri-urban and rural areas can be attributed to open biomass burning and the use of solid wood for cooking in rural areas," said Dr Kulkarni.

According to experts, the use of satellite data can help study the variation of particulate matter with greater detail.

"It is difficult to capture the intricate spatial variations of PM2.5 without a dense network of monitors. However, satellite-based products could bridge this gap. Although, there are challenges and limitations in such studies such as the non-availability of satellite images during cloudy days and the lack of non-urban PM2.5 measurements," said Dr Sreekanth Vakacherla, co-author of the report and a senior research scientist at CSTEP.

Researchers said compared to the measurements made by air quality monitors, satellite estimates might show some variability; however, there are other advantages.

"Compared to the measurements made by regulatory monitors, satellite estimated PM2.5 levels will have more uncertainties. But the advantage of these estimates is we can have high-resolution spatial maps of PM2.5 spread. In our study, hotspots were identified based on these spatial maps using a statistical approach," said Dr Kulkarni.

Not bad

The study also used satellite data to analyse the spatial patterns, hotspot areas, and rural-urban contrasts of PM2.5 in Delhi-NCR and Kanpur. While the annual mean PM2.5 values for Bengaluru ranged between 35 and 55 µg m-3, Bengaluru's air was found to be much cleaner when compared to Delhi-NCR and Kanpur.

"The Indian annual threshold for PM2.5 is 40 µg m-3. Over a few parts of Bengaluru, the values exceeded the annual threshold. But compared to Delhi-NCR and Kanpur, Bengaluru is observed to have much cleaner air," said Dr Kulkarni.

PM2.5 hotspots were identified over a lesser spatial extent in Bengaluru compared to that of Delhi-NCR and Kanpur. Moreover, while marginal differences in annual PM2.5 were observed between rural and urban areas in Delhi-NCR and Kanpur regions, no such difference was observed between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas in Bengaluru, irrespective of seasons.

Health impact

"Due to the small size of this particulate matter, it is more likely to travel into and attach on the surface of the deeper parts of the lung, inducing tissue damage and lung inflammation. Short-term exposure to PM2.5 has been associated with worsening of respiratory diseases, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, leading to hospitalisation and emergency department visits. Whereas long-term exposure (months to years) has been linked to premature death, particularly in people who have chronic heart or lung diseases, and reduced lung function growth in children," said Dr Sheetal Chaurasia, consultant, pulmonary medicine, Manipal Hospital.

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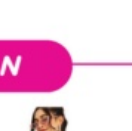

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All that's left is dilemma

Man alleges traffic cops at Mehkri Circle wrongly fining riders, police deny allegation

Bellie.Thomas
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

Traffic police confirm that they receive many cases of skipping signal from Mehkri Circle

Crossing a particular turn at Mehkri Circle has become confusing for commuters, which is closed for left turn sometimes. A scooter rider alleged that traffic police are wrongly flagging down vehicles on charge of signal violation when they take the left turn, confused by green signal indicating access to the straight route.

The rider, took to social media, alleging that his vehicle was flagged down after he took a left turn at the signal. He explained to the cops that he was confused by the green light indicating straight access.

Some commuters take a free left even when a No-free-left board is installed. There is a red signal required to evade the confusion, they say.

There are groups of traffic cops who allegedly hide in a corner, who suddenly come on to the road flagging down vehicles and issue challans for signal jumps.

The rider's post mentioned: "On March 1, while returning home from Yeshwanthpur. I took the left turn, only to be stopped by the traffic police who were standing at the turn." The cop "jumped" in front of the scooter and directed him to pull over. He said another rider, who was just behind him, was also flagged down similarly.

The cop told them that they were being booked for breaking the signal, which was a false accusation according to the riders. "As we were defending ourselves, the officer became abusive. The cop had even lost his patience and raised his hand in an action to hit me twice," the rider's post read.

As time went by, the cops were flagging down many vehicles in the same manner as they were jumping signals right at the left turn which they assume is a free left towards BIAL Road.

Being an engineering student, the rider mentioned that there must have been some error with the traffic lights as the sync was off. The fellow rider, who was in a hurry, decided to apologise to the cops accepting his offence and paid Rs 200 bribe to which the officer agreed to let him go.

According to the rider, he was not the only one to bribe the cops. The cops then demanded that he show his insurance papers. When the rider showed the insurance certificate on his mobile, he wasn't convinced and the rider alleged that the cop threatened him with a fine of Rs 5,000 for traffic signal violation and for not having valid insurance.

> **"As we were defending ourselves, the officer became abusive. The traffic police officer lost his patience and raised his hand at me**
>
> –Complainant

He said that after realising that he wasn't paying any more bribe, the cops let him go. "I was asked to go in a very mocking and abusive manner. I hope that he hasn't booked me and put me on the tab. I don't want to receive any notice charging me with a false accusation," the rider stated in his post.

The Sadashivanagar traffic police admitted that they get a lot of signal jumping offenders at that particular junction.

A source from the police station said that road users coming from heading left towards BIAL Road would see the green light, but there isn't a free left and whenever the left is allowed, a green leftward arrow lights up in the signal, the source said. "There is nothing wrong with the signal system. It's auto-calibrated according to traffic density and whoever violates by jumping signals look for excuses and reasons to prove themselves right," a senior police officer said. "Whoever jumps signal, we are either recording the offence with FTVR device or challan," he added.

Citizens on mission to save Bannerghatta

They want DC to speed up Elephant Corridor survey, restore land rights to forest dept

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the recent reports of 232 acres of forestland being converted to revenue land near Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), the citizens appealed to Bangalore Urban Deputy Commissioner (DC) to speed up the 1,000-acre survey of the Elephant Corridor and to restore ownership rights of 232 acres of land to the forest department.

Namma Bengaluru Foundation and Vruksha Foundation met Bengaluru Urban DC J Manjunath and submitted a petition to quicken the survey .

On World Wildlife Day, the organisation requested the Government of Karnataka to look into the matter of saving Bannerghatta Park.

The national park has been an important corridor for elephants migrating between the two Ghats. "We have increasingly come across man-animal conflicts in various parts of the State. The proliferation of these animals and the rapid urbanisation has brought them in conflict with humans in recent years. This move to convert forestland to revenue land will not only disturb the ecological balance of this area, but will also put humans and these animals at great risk," a NBF member said.

Vinod Jacob, GM, Namma Bengaluru Foundation said, "Bengalureans are lucky to have a National Park in their city and this must be protected and conserved for future generations. The government should come up with a solution to restrain any further damage to the wildlife and ecology of Bannerghatta National Park. We look forward to the government coming out with a solution and restoring the park to its original self which is also the key objective of the UN Wildlife organisation theme this year"

> **On World Wildlife Day, the organisation requested the Government of Karnataka to look into the matter of saving Bannerghatta Park**

Manjunath pointed out that the government has already started the survey. "The survey is underway, and the report will be shared shortly in the public domain. I have been personally involved in the process with the Revenue Department & Forest Department and will ensure that the right process will be applied. We will come up with a comprehensive plan to remove encroachers and rehabilitate farmers in the area and find a permanent solution to this crisis."

Vijay Nishanth, Founder, Project Vruksha Foundation stated that the preservation of forests and parks is the need of the hour. With the DC pointing out for the survey to be conducted he stated that it was welcome news. "This national park is in our backyard and if we can have wildlife conserved and preserved for our future generations, this will be good," said Nishanth.

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No chowkidar

Rajajinagar

An unused traffic chowki in Rajajinagar 6th block is blocking the road, causing inconvenience to the public. Authorities need to act on this.

Clear the waste

Sultanpalya

Almost every alternate day, we are raising complaints about people dumping garbage on 8th Cross Road at Hanumantappa Layout in Sultanpalya. The issue has been continuing for almost a year. The BBMP needs to act on this.

No parking

Basaveshwaranagar

Vendors have encroached the roadsides and parked their carts in no-parking zones near Base PU College in Basaveshwaranagar. The traffic police don't interfere or take any action.

Out of the frying pan, into the fire

Oil prices shoot through the roof; almost all commodities set to see an increase in prices in weeks to come

With the Russian-Ukraine crisis intensifying, kitchen bills in Bengaluru are expected to be on a steady rise. Prices of edible oil in the city have hit an all-time high. Refined sunflower oil is now being sold for Rs 175 from the earlier price of Rs 130, palm oil at Rs 155 (up from Rs 120), groundnut oil Rs 165 (Rs 135), rice bran oil Rs 165 (Rs 135), sesame oil Rs 190 (up Rs 160) and oil used for pooja has jumped from Rs 135 to Rs 150 per litre.

Ramya R, a home maker, told Bangalore Mirror with the bills rising so much it is getting difficult to manage.

Industry watchers predict prices of other commodities too are set to rise soon as the fuel prices will be increased shortly. Once fuel prices go up, the transportation cost rises and this will directly and indirectly impact the price of almost all the products.

Sources said the price rise was due to possible short supply of sunflower oil and that of crude palm oil prices going through the roof. India is a major importer of crude palm oil and the country meets more than two-thirds of its edible oil needs through imports, of which palm oil accounts for more than 60 per cent.

All edible oils track each other's prices as they compete in the market, and any potential supply disruptions for one buoys the prices of the other counters. Since the past one month Malaysian crude palm oil, the benchmark, has risen about 25 per cent. On Wednesday, it hit an all-time high of 7,108 ringgits (equivalent to Rs 1,28,819) per tonne. There seems to be no early hope of reduction in prices as disruption in Ukrainian sunflower oil supply is expected to persist sometime., There is some uncertainty and prices of some of the edible oils have gone up by $200 in the international market. India imports sunflower seeds from Ukraine as imports are relatively cheaper even when India's sunflower seed production ranges between 60,000-75,000 tonnes. Chairman of the Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade (COOIT), Suresh Nagpal, said, "(Even when) edible oil is not coming from Ukraine, thankfully, in India, we have stocks available for 40-45 days." "This year, India is expecting record mustard production. This will play an important role in meeting the edible oil deficit. After March 15, 3 to 4 lakh tonnes of mustard oil will be available per month," Nagpal said.

COOIT also has demanded the government ensure soya solvent plants are working at full capacity.

"The government needs to provide some kind of incentive for export in soya DOC," he added.

Since a month now, the government has specified a stock limit for edible oils. It is 30 quintals for retailers, 500 quintals for wholesalers, 30 quintals for retail outlets of bulk consumers, i.e., big chain retailers and shops and 1,000 quintals for its depots. Processors of edible oils would be able to stock 90 days of their storage capacities. For edible oilseeds, the stock limit is 100 quintals for retailers, 2,000 quintals for wholesalers.

—Sridhar Vivan & IANS

Sensex slides

The Indian stock markets benchmark Sensex closed 366 points down in volatile trading on Thursday as crude oil price soared to a nine-year high of $118 a barrel amid intensified conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The Indian equities started the day on a positive note with the benchmark Sensex opening with a gain of 450 points. The index turned volatile later in the day and eventually closed in the red. The Sensex had lost 778.38 points or 1.38 per cent on Wednesday.

Crude prices increase

Currently, there is a freeze on daily hike in oil prices due to the elections in five states. However, analysts say that the prices of oil may start to rise as soon as the last phase of election is concluded. It is said that the prices of fuel may have to be hiked as much as Rs 10 per litre. As Chief Minister Bommai presents his budget today, it needs to be seen if he offers any tax sops for fuel or increases the tax. While the motorists will bear the brunt, transport corporations like KSRTC and BMTC will face a financial crunch as the fares have not been raised for a while. The transport corporations may put pressure on the government to increase the fares as well. Meanwhile, the Benchmark Brent crude oil prices climbed close to $120 a barrel on Thursday, with Russian oil exports disrupted. Support also came from US crude stockpiles at multi-year lows, helping to lift Brent crude futures as high as $119.84 a barrel.

Rupee slips 15 paise to close at 75.95 against US dollar

Rupee declined by 15 paise to close at 75.95 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, pressured by surging crude oil prices amid intensifying conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Persistent foreign capital outflows and subdued domestic equity markets also affected market sentiment, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened strong at 75.76 against the American dollar but soon entered the negative territory as investors turned towards safe-haven assets. During the session, it swung between a high of 75.60 and a low of 75.98. It finally settled at 75.95 against the dollar.

BangaloreMirror

Ukraine turmoil keeps oil prices on the boil

Edible oil prices going up as sunflower seeds are imported from Ukraine and Russia

Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) on Monday appealed to its members to reduce minimum retail price of cooking oils by Rs 3-5 per kg

There are 12.8 applicants for every MBBS seat in K'taka

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Hundreds of medicos stranded in Ukraine are struggling to return to their homeland. This raises an all-important question: Why are so many heading to the Slavic country to study medicine? Besides the quality of education, the other important factor could be the gross shortage of medical seats in our State/country. Shekar Gouda (father Naveen SG who was killed in Ukraine) had said that despite his son scoring 97 per cent in II PU, he had failed to get a medical seat in our State.

Karnataka has the highest number of medical seats in the country. Despite this, it is very tough to get a seat here

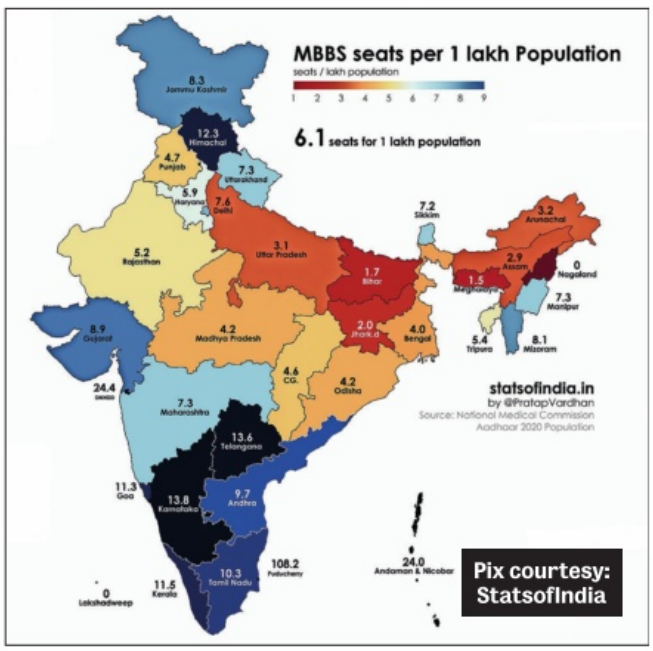
Stats show that Karnataka has the highest number of medical seats in the country. Despite this, it is very tough to get a seat here. According to the national average, there are only five MBBS seats for every 100 applicants while only 7.8 seats are available for 100 applicants in Karnataka (9.4 in Telangana and 8.4 in Andhra Pradesh). In India, there are 19.2 applicants competing to get a single seat while 12.8 applicants are there for a single medical seat in Karnataka.

According to an analysis of Pratap Vardhan, Creator at StatsofIndia, Telangana comes second with 13.6 seats, Himachal Pradesh 12.3, Kerala 11.5, Tamil Nadu 10.3, Andhra Pradesh 9.7 and Maharashtra 7.3." Pratap told BM he has culled out the data from the National Testing Agency. "Of the ~83,000 MBBS seats, 40% are in the five southern states, and of 16 lakh applicants 30% are from these states, while only 20% of India's population resides in these five states." Sourcing data from National Medical commission, Pratap said, Karnataka had the highest MBBS seats in the country with 9,345 out of which 2,900 were in government colleges. Though Maharashtra comes second with 9,000 medical seats, the neighbouring state had the highest government medical colleges (4,430) as against Karnataka which had the highest private medical colleges. "Tamil Nadu comes third with 8,000 seats and Uttar Pradesh 7,428. Karnataka has the highest MBBS seats in the country. Karnataka on an average has 13.8 seats for 1 lakh population while the national average is 6.1 seats per 1 lakh population.

Pratap said, "The data shows the distribution of MBBS colleges and how it is pertinent that MBBS seats are not available for all eligible candidates."

NEET should go: HDK

Former CM HD Kumaraswamy said Naveen's death was a reflection of NEET's causing injustice to the economically vulnerable. "It is impossible for govt and rural students to clear NEET. Aware of this, tutorials are expanding their market... Everyone should raise their voice against NEET which is meant only to provide education to the rich," he tweeted.



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I, HUSSAIN S/o Zainuddin Kathawala residing at No. 308, Calvin Royal Residency Bohra Layout, BG Road, Gottigere, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to HUSSAIN ZAINUDDIN KATHAWALA vide affidavit dated 02.03.2022 sworn before notary D.S Chandrakanth, Bangalore.

I, J NAYEEM R/o at No.1, 5th Cross RTR, Venkateshpuram B'lore-560045 have changed my name to NAYEEM PASHA vide affidavite Dated 2.3.2022 sworn before Notary C Sharada Bangalore

I Syed Moyeen Ziauddin S/O, Ziauddin R/o No 6 2nd Cross Papanna Block Ganga Nagarr T Nagar Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Mohammed Moyeen Pasha

I, ASHWINI GANESH W/o Ganesh R residing at No.555, S1, Sneha Apts, 16th Cross, HIG Dollar's Colony, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560094 have changed my name to ASHWINI A R vide affidavit dated 02.03.2022 sworn before notary D.S Chandrakanth, Bangalore.

I, Vinolin P Dhas W/o Y C Elvin Sam Harris R/o # 204 Sri Lorven Castle, 7th Cross, 5th Main, Maruthi Nagar, Malleshpalaya B'lore - 560075 have changed my name to Vinolin Paulraj Dhas for all purposes.

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I Shikha Tapan Dantre, R/o Flat-1112 Uber Verdant apt, Doddakannahalli grama, Bangalore 560035 have changed my name to Shikha Dantre.

I, Tapan Dantre, R/o 1112 Uber Verdant, Sarjapur main road, Doddakannalli, Bangalore 560035 have changed my minor daughter's name to Aaniya Dantre

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I Srinivasa T J R/O # 4/5, 1st floor, TJS Complex, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-562130 lost my Original property documents of Tavarekere Hobli, Bychuguppe Sy No 37/2. Sale deed No.KEN-1-08732-2005-6 Dated 15/07/2005 , FIR NO.PO0277220600220. Finder Please contact. Mob : 8197273777

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Citizens share inputs for city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

revamped and levelled footpaths would help immensely. Through MyCityMyBudget, we can come forward to give our suggestions. A higher budget should be dedicated to revamping footpaths alone," said Bauddin Khan, a resident of Thanisandra.

Seema R from HBR Layout pointed out there are very few public toilets in the city and the ones that exist are not maintained. "There have been multiple calls by citizens to have more public toilets; and properly maintain the facilities thereafter; this doesn't seem to happen. People do not have easy access to public toilets and the ones that exist are not maintained for them to use it. Construction of more toilets and maintenance should be incorporated in the budget."

The MyCityMyBudget (MCMB) is an annual participatory budgeting initiative, which was started in the year 2015. In its first year, the campaign was launched as a pilot in a few wards and received 6,037 citizen inputs. In 2017, the BBMP Budget included 12,468 MCMB inputs estimated to be worth Rs 600 crore of works. The 2018-19 campaign witnessed an overwhelming response with 67,114 citizens submitting inputs. A formal MoU was signed between Janaagraha and BBMP in 2018. The 2021-22 campaign focused on footpaths, public toilets and yellow spots also known as 'public urination spots'. Over 42 civil society organisations, resident welfare associations and other community groups joined to make the campaign a success. Active participation of citizens prompted the Palike to allot Rs 60 lakh to each of Bengaluru's 198 ward committees. In 2021, MyCityMyBudget was also launched in

Mangaluru and Visakhapatnam. The campaign is helping to weave citizen participation into the fabric of local municipal budget-making.

Srinivas Alavilli, head of civic participation at Janaagraha, said: "Last year, in a historic move, BBMP entrusted ward committees with Rs 60 lakh budget funds to incorporate local requirements. This opened up new frontiers of citizen participation in many wards, where citizens collaborated with the BBMP to identify footpaths that needed to be fixed. This year, the focus will continue to be on footpaths, public toilets and parks. We hope to see a positive difference in the quality of footpaths, toilets and parks this year."

Janaagraha will collate all the inputs, analyse them and provide the report to the BBMP for incorporation in the upcoming budget. This exercise by the BBMP, has raised the expectations of citizens on increased allocation of funds to the ward committees as compared to the previous years.

The Budget Bus will travel across the city and collect inputs from people in different neighbourhoods till March 15.

All eyes on Bommai's debut budget

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will present his maiden budget on Friday. The 10-day session was cut short due to Congress' protest demanding the dismissal of Minister K S Eshwarappa over his statement on the national flag.

The session is expected to be stormy, as opposition parties are likely to corner the BJP government on a host of issues. The 19-day session will conclude on March 30.

With just a year left for the Assembly polls and this most likely being the last full-fledged budget ahead of the elections, expectations are that the Chief Minister is likely to woo voters with sops, and give thrust to infrastructure.

Though economic distress during the last two years due to the pandemic seems to have left little room for fiscal manoeuvring, the revenue collection has been improving in recent times, giving some leeway for the Chief Minister to go for some big-ticket announcements. It also remains to be seen what Bommai will do regarding the borrowings that have been increasing year after year. It also remains to be seen what Bommai will do regarding the borrowings that have been rising each year.

The Congress, which is concluding its 'padayatra' demanding the implementation of Mekedatu drinking water project across river Cauvery, is also likely to raise the issue in the Assembly.

The opposition has been critical of the BJP government at the Centre over the evacuation of Indians especially students from war-torn Ukraine, following the death of Naveen Shekharappa Gyanagoudar. The issue is also likely to be raised in the Assembly.

Parties are also likely to press for redoubling efforts to bring back the body of Naveen.

The Hijab row, killing of 28-year old Bajrang Dal activist Harsha in Shivamogga and violence that followed are among the issues that are likely to figure the assembly proceedings, with opposition parties appearing set to put the government on the mat on law and order situation in the state. The Congress is also likely to target the government for FIR against its leaders during the Mekedatu padayatra.

(BMB & agencies)

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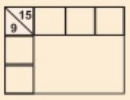
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

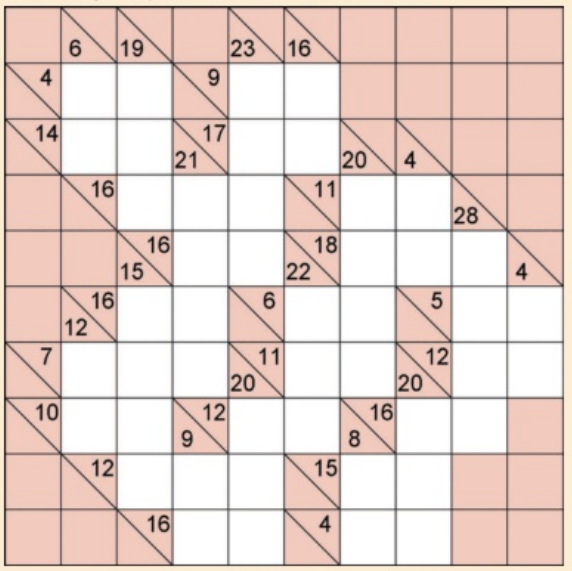
$3^{2^{0!}} + 3^{2^0} \times 3^{0!} = ?$

Kakuro

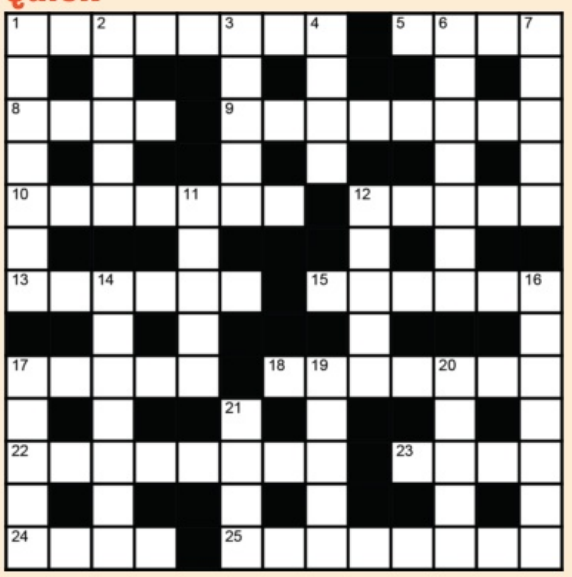
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Benevolence (8)
5 Beach gravel (4)
8 Cash register (4)
9 Salutation (8)
10 Burnt, set ablaze (7)
12 Is bested (5)
13 Respiration disorder (6)
15 Zend ___ : the holy scriptures for the Parsis ? (6)
17 To do with country (5)
18 Odd (7)
22 Our erstwhile PHL team (2-6)
23 Needle case (4)
24 In case (4)
25 Over-abundance (8)

DOWN

1 Bollywood's Ms Kaif (7)
2 Artificial fibre (5)
3 Bird of prey (5)
4 Boil slowly (4)
6 Pseudonyms (7)
7 Venetian Magistrates (5)
11 Chennai lingo (5)
12 Aficionado (5)
14 Schedule listings (7)
16 United States (7)
17 R of R.D. Burman (5)
19 Discernment (5)
20 N in TNT? (5)
21 Shed tears (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS G

KUDIHMNMD, J.: UJ AJRM-JAIVB AJBNDVHMJN FPATP AJCATUNMB FPUN QAJC IG FMUNPMD FM UDM PUEAJR.

Linemaro

If I could reach out and hold a star for every time you've made me smile, I'd hold the sky in my palm

Mindchow

You never get people's fuller attention than when you're listening to them

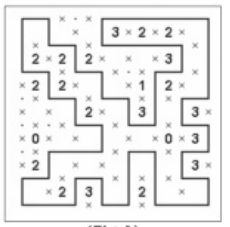
Joke of the day

Animals can sense earthquakes. The night before the last earthquake hit, our dog took the car keys and drove to Arizona: Bob Hope

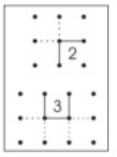
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

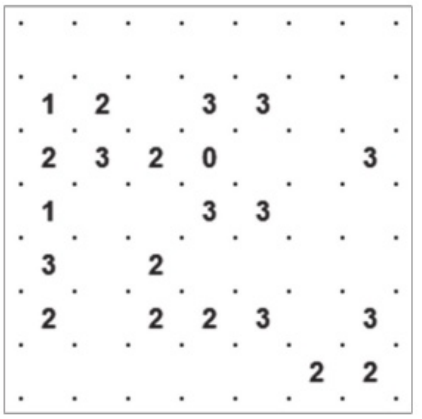


(Fig B) Not Allowed

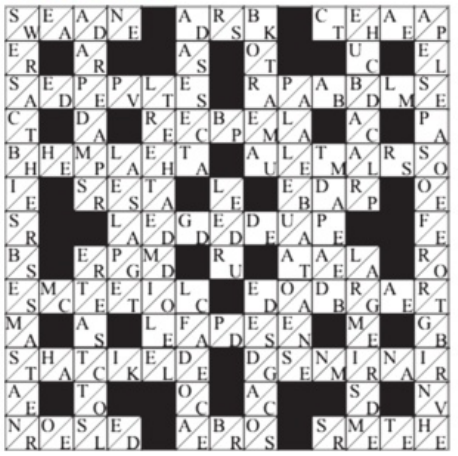
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 H
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

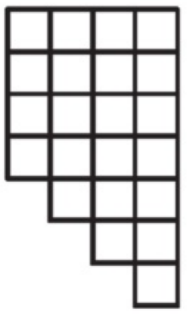
1 Both C; 6 A coho;
7 BS run; 8 Lu Tee;
9 Smile

DOWN

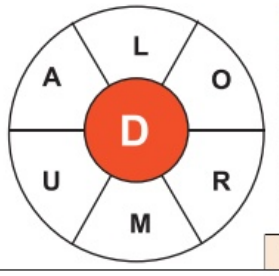
1 Be lab; 2 Uli Co;
3 Mr Hut; 4 Cento;
5 Shoes

Mensapuzzle

How many squares are there here?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

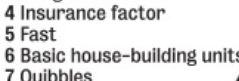
SudokuChallenge

	2				1	4		
4		1						6
	9		7	8		3		
		5		2			4	7
7	8			4		1		
		8		1	7		3	
6						7		8
		4	8				6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 16
2 4 6 8

Medium = 13
2 4 7 7

Hard = 4
2 8 9 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

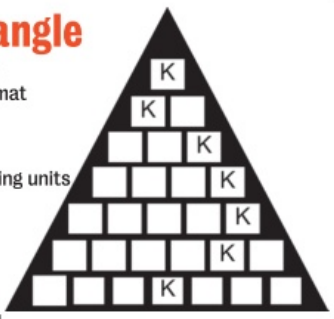
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Saw is longer. 4. Mouth is not open as wide. 5. Tree branch is shorter. 6. Hole in tree trunk is moved.

Riddler

In a sylasearch I give you a syllable-starter, which is the first syllable in the words you are to find. I will also give you a listing of the other syllables (in which each may only be used once) which you must use to figure out the 9 words. Syllable List - a, a, a, al, don, en, graph, ic, ka, keet, lel, ly, med, ses, the, tial, ty Syllable-starter: par How many syllables, each word has: 1. (2), 2. (2), 3. (2), 4. (3), 5. (3), 6. (3), 7. (3), 8. (4), 9. (4)

Alpha triangle

1 Potassium symbol
2 Movie: Kahani Kismat
3 Badger
4 Insurance factor
5 Fast
6 Basic house-building units
7 Quibbles



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

TANGLEFOOT AND I ARE BACK FROM SPYING ON THE FORT
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
12-20
THAT TANGLEFOOT NEEDS TO WORK ON HIS BIRDCALL SIGNALS

Bizarrotrip

It starts off as a dream where I can fly, but then it turns into one where I'm catching & eating insects.
©2021 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Wayno & PIRRO. 12-30-21
BIZARRO.COM

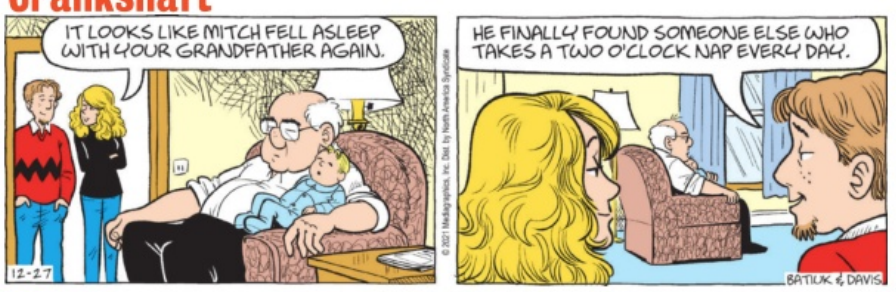
Diamond Lil

DID YOU HEAR? CRANSTON HOSEBIB STARTED HIS OWN COMPANY
FOR A FEE, HE DELIVERS 1980S DESIGNER JEANS RIGHT TO YOUR HOUSE
WHAT'S THE SERVICE CALLED?
JORDACHE
©2021 creators.com 12/30
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

YOU HAVE SO MANY MYSTICS THE GROUPING CARDS!
YEAH! AND NOT ONLY ARE THEY FOR PLAYING, BUT THEY'RE COLLECTIBLE, TOO.
REALLY?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft


IT LOOKS LIKE MITCH FELL ASLEEP WITH YOUR GRANDFATHER AGAIN.
HE FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE ELSE WHO TAKES A TWO O'CLOCK NAP EVERY DAY.
12-27
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dissatisfied for some reasons. You may feel lazy and dull; it'll affect your current speed for a project or may delay your work. Love birds are advised to avoid any important decision in terms of marriage. Job seekers are advised to work hard for interviews.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your internal power may make you happy; you may get short gains in terms of investments. You may strike a good rapport with your boss. You may get a promotion. Your prestige in the society may increase. You may also expect some work-related trips.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may get a higher position for your hard work. Your performance at work may improve. You may also meet an influential person, who may give you a good direction to improve your life. You may manage your domestic issues very easily, which may boost harmony in the domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be happy; things may become better. You may plan to visit some religious places, it may give you inner strength. You may also donate some money to a religious place or to charity. You may expect some overseas travel in terms of education or work. Couples may find their suitable match. Singles are likely to find their soulmates.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel lonely and may find yourself in the self analysis process. You may expect some changes in your place or position. Your patience may be tested many times. You may be arrogant with people around you; it may affect your personal life. You are advised to avoid adventure trips.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon, which may create positive vibrations around you. You may be more creative and you may bring some artefacts or household items to renovate your house. Disputes in partnership may be resolved. You may expect a long-distance work trip. Bonding with the spouse will be good, which will bring harmony in your domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may perform your best at work. You may have good bonding with the boss, you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Old health issues may be cured now. Disputes with siblings may be resolved. Money, which was stuck, may get recovered now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, kids' education may make you busy; you may plan for their higher studies also. Couples who want to start a family may hear good news. You may make some plan for higher studies to boost your career. You may also attend a workshop for getting promotion in the current job. Singles may find their soulmate.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, the negative moon may make you upset. You may feel dissatisfied and may not be able to take responsibilities. Your investments may incur you some loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing. Elders' health issues may upset youg. You may plan to reconstruct your house, it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your vital force seems to be good, it may help you to complete tough projects easily. You may expand your network after a short work-related trip. You may also help some needy person, which may increase your social status. Disputes with siblings may settle down, it may boost your relationship with them.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy in a family get-together, you may be polite with people around you, which may elevate your image among your relatives and friends. You will spend money in buying some artefacts or other items, which will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, elders' blessing will help you and you may develop patience. Your focus may come back, it may help you to achieve your goals. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life. There may be some balance between expenditures and savings. It may boost your savings.

KIDZONE

Manoj Kumar, 11 years, Bengaluru

Aiswarya, 7 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

QUOTE UNCODE
Barometer, n.: An ingenious instrument which indicates what kind of weather we are having.

SOLVE IN 1M
9+3?3 = 18

FAST FIVE

B	O	T	C	H
A	C	H	O	O
B	U	R	N	S
E	L	U	T	E
L	I	M	E	S

MENSA PUZZLE Forty

BULL'S EYE aloud, dorm, dour, dram, drum, duel, lard, laud, load, lord, loud, modal, MODULAR, mould, road

STRIKE OUT

N	O	S	E	A	B	S
E	T		C		A	
E			A	R	K	
T	A	R	E	B	E	L
A	D	E	P	T	S	
T	A	C	K	L	E	
A		A	D	E	N	
E	M	E	T	I	C	
B	R	P	M		R	T
R		A	D	E	D	U
E	S	E	A		L	
H	E	M	L	E	I	
W	A	D	E		A	R

QUICK

K	I	N	D	N	E	S
			L		W	
T	I	L	L		G	R
R		O		L		W
I	G	N	I	T	E	D
		A				
A	S	T	H	M	A	
				E		I
R	U	R	A	L		S
A		I			W	
A		I				
L	E	S	T		P	L

RIDDLER
1. Parka (par ka), 2. Pardon (par don), 3. Party (par ty), 4. Paragraph (par a graph), 5. Parallel (par al lel), 6. Parakeet (par a keet), 7. Partially (par tial ly), 8. Parentheses (par en the ses) 9. Paramedic (par a med ic)

SUDOKU

8	2	7	3	6	1	4	5	9
4	3	1	2	9	5	8	7	6
5	9	6	7	8	4	3	1	2
3	6	5	1	2	8	9	4	7
1	4	2	9	7	3	6	8	5
9	5	8	6	1	7	2	3	4
7	8	9	5	4	6	1	2	3
6	1	3	4	5	2	7	9	8
2	7	4	8	3	9	5	6	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
K, Ki, Irk, Risk, Brisk, Bricks, Bickers.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 / 2 + 8 + 6 = 16
Medium
7 – 4 x 2 + 7 = 13
Hard
2 – 9 + 3 + 8 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Evan Rachel Wood to be Madonna
Evan Rachel Wood has stepped into the role of the Queen of Pop Madonna for the film 'WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Story'

BangaloreMirror | 10
Friday, March 4, 2022
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Shilpa on a new page

Actor Shilpa Shetty on Thursday began filming her next movie "Sukhee", directed by Sonal Joshi.

The 46-year-old actor, who announced the project on Tuesday, took to Instagram and shared a video from the film set.

"A NEW FILM, a new character, a new journey: #SUKHEE First shot done! #NewBeginnings #happiness #gratitude #blessings #worklife #happiness (sic)" Shetty captioned the post.

The movie is produced by Abundantia Entertainment and T-Series.

Shetty was last seen in the 2021 comedy "Hungama 2", which marked her return to the screen after "Apne" (2007).

The actor also has the action romantic comedy "Nikamma", co-starring Abhimanyu Dassani and Shirley Setia, in the pipeline.

— PTI

LOVE'S THE BRIDGE

We look at B-Town lovebirds who are crossing over an age gap to be together

Age is just a number and these Bollywood couples have proved the same with their romance! Hrithik Roshan is dating a much younger Saba Azad, while Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are set to get hitched foregoing a decade-long age gap. Take a look at B-Town lovebirds who are madly in love despite the age difference.

Hrithik and Saba

The newest couple in town - Hrithik Roshan and Saba Azad, have an age difference of nearly 17 years. From dinner dates to family outings – Hrithik and Saba refuse to hide their romance. A source told BT that Hrithik and Saba met on Twitter after the former shared a video featuring Saba. One thing led to another and the duo started chatting over DMs. Hrithik and Saba's romance is just 2-3 months old but their chemistry seems to have a vibe of eternity!

Alia and Ranbir

Madly in love Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor have an age difference of 10 years. This couple stayed together during lockdown and will also be seen romancing on the silver screen in 'Brahmastra'. Reportedly, Ranbir and Alia are also planning to take their romance to the next level and get hitched this year.

Arjun and Gabriella

In 2018, Arjun separated from wife Mehr Jesia and found love in Gabriella Demetriades, who is 14 years younger to him. The couple did not get formally hitched yet, but welcomed a baby boy in 2019. From romantic holidays to festive celebrations and dutifully parenting their son Arik – Arjun and Gabriella seem to be crazy for each other.

Sidharth and Kiara

'Shershaah' perfectly captured Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani's onscreen chemistry and their romance is often witnessed off camera too. They have an age difference of 8 years but the charm they exude when they are together is unmissable. Despite every effort to hide their relationship, Sidharth and Kiara's secret holidays and outings give fans a sneak-peek of their romance. **—ETimes**

'Salman has changed'

After collaborating for projects like 'Khamoshi' and 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam', Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Salman Khan were to reunite for 'Inshallah'. However, the film got shelved.

In a recent video interview with a news portal, the filmmaker opened up about the possibility of him working with the 'Dabangg' star again. Spilling some beans on the same, Bhansali said that Salman is a dear friend and he wanted to work with the superstar after his 'Padmaavat'. Elaborating, the filmmaker added that he had put his best foot forward to make it happen. However, things didn't turn out to be like he wanted. According to him, we all change as people and Salman has changed too. He also added that in Salman's mind, he has changed too.

Bhansali concluded by saying that he has the utmost respect for the superstar.

However, the ball is in his court now to decide if he wants to work with him.

'Inshallah' was supposed to bring together Salman and Alia Bhatt for the first time. When the film got shelved, Bhansali went ahead with another project, 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' with Alia.

Meanwhile, Salman will next be seen in Maneesh Sharma's 'Tiger 3'. The film will also star Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi.

— ETimes

Behind the scenes: Shriya Saran is all praise

Drishyam' actor Shriya Saran is back to business and how! The actor shared a series of behind-the-scenes photos from her upcoming film 'Music School' on Thursday.

The 39-year-old actor took to Instagram to share pictures of herself from the sets. The 'Sivaji: The Boss' actor can be seen sitting in a train and looking out. She sported a light pink shirt with large red prints in it and accessorised the look with teardrop hoops. She also wore a chain with a cross, signifying her character, Mary.

She took to the caption and wrote, "Shooting Music school @yaminifilms with Raju sundar master ! One of my fav choreographer. Absolutely love his work! Thank you @deohanskiran for your work! You are the bestest DoP ever ! That's me lost in my thoughts to find me in Mary. Meet Mary from the movie Music school."

She also shared goofy selfies with choreographer Raju Sundar and DOP Kiran Deohans.

'Music School' is Telugu-Hindi musical drama that stars Sharman Joshi in the lead role with Shriya. The film has been directed by Papa Rao Biyyala and the music has been given by the legendary Ilayaraaja.

Shriya has started shooting for the much-awaited sequel 'Drishyam 2'. She will also be seen in an extended cameo in 'RRR'.